(b) Yes, Sir. There is continuous upgradation of technology in GSI, particularly in respect of photogeology and remote sensing work, field survey, ground geophysical survey, aerogeophysical survey, marine survey, drilling operations, laboratory studies & research projects, information technology etc. GSI is developing expertise in magnetotelluric survey and Hyperspectral mapping at present.

(c) and (d) GSI carries out regional exploration for minerals and quantifies the resource of the minerals investigated. Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) prepares the inventory of mineral reserves of country from its own data and the information made available by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, State Directorates of Geology and Mining and other exploration agencies. The reserve of major minerals in India (as on 01.04.2005), (Source: IBM Year Book, 2007) is as under:

Sl.No.	Ore / Mineral	Reserve (in million tonnes)
1.	Copper ore	369.49
2,	Lead-Zinc ore	125.75
3.	Iron ore, Haematite	7004.16
4.	Iron ore, Magnetite	58.50
5.	Manganese ore	138.15
6.	Bauxite	899.38
7.	Limestone	12715.31
8	Dolomite	985.15
9.	Gold Ore	19.25
10.	Chromite	66.12
11.	Molybdenum	1.5

In addition the Annual Review of GSI (2009) gives the reserves of coal and lignite as under:

Sl.No.	Ore / Mineral	Reserve tonnes (in million tonnes)
1.	Coal	267210
2.	Lignite	39070

Promotion of small scale mining

375. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as enunciated in the National Mineral Policy, 2008, efforts would be made to promote small scale mining of small deposits;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard especially in Jharkhand; and

(c) how far these measures would be benefiting the Scheduled Tribes of the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy 2008 enunciates that efforts would be made to grant mineral concessions to consortia of small scale miners so that such clusters of small deposits will enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale. Mineral Concession applications are to be made to the State Government. The Ministry of Mines has on 12.10.2009 circulated a Model State Mineral Policy to all State Governments including Jharkhand which *inter-alia* addresses this issue and has requested the State Governments to consider adopting the policy.

(c) The State Government would need to make specific provision in the policy in this regard.

Illegal mining in Keonjhar, Orissa

376. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of large scale illegal mining of iron-ore and manganese in Orissaus mineral rich Keonjhar district which run into several thousand crores rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that investigation carried out by Indian Bureau of Mines has found evidence to substantiate illegal mining in that area and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that illegally exploited mineral like iron-ore, manganese and chromites, which are of strategie importance are being clandestinely transported to China and Bangladesh by a racket; and

(d) if so, Governmentus reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (d) Some instances of illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in Keonjhar district of Orissa have come to the notice of the Government. The Indian Bureau of Mines inquiries has found evidence of illegal mining of 1957 tonnes of iron ore and 56453 tonnes of manganese ore of a value of approximately Rs.23.39 crores.

The State Government of Orissa has informed that ;-

- A Vigilance investigation is underway
- Administrative enquiry is underway
- The State Government has arrested 8 persons (of which 6 are Government officials and 1 retired officer of the State Government) on 12.8.2009, who were subsequently released on bail.
- State Level Task Force has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
- All the District Collectors have been directed to hold District Level Task Force meetings regularly, verify the lease hold areas and take appropriate action.